



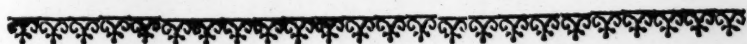
A

L E T T E R

TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

WILLIAM BROWNLOW.



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A  
L E T T E R  
TO THE  
RIGHT HONOURABLE  
WILLIAM BROWNLOW,  
ON THE PRESENT  
ADMINISTRATION.

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BY A C I T I Z E N.

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Persevere with Prudence :  
Conquer with Justice.

LUCAS.

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D U B L I N :

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M,DCC,LXXXIV.

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*ADVERTISEMENT.*

**T**HE writer of the following letter, thinks it a matter of justice to Mr. BROWNLOW, to declare, that he has no sort of acquaintance with that Gentleman, and that he has taken the liberty to select his name from among a number of worthies, still left uncorrupted, for his judicious, active, yet temperate conduct, in every situation. He further declares, that he would not have taken the liberty without permission,

permission, were he not apprehensive, that his discretion or modesty, would have injured the currency of the letter, by declining to give the use of a name, which certainly will raise its credit, if it can claim any.

To

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TO THE  
RIGHT HONOURABLE  
WILLIAM BROWNLOW.

S I R,

YOUR merit as a Citizen stands so evidently confessed, that it must stamp some degree of credit on the principles of the writer, who presumes to address you.

It is the more necessary to shield myself under your Patriotism, because my sentiments differ a little from many worthy Citizens, my friends and fellow-labourers;  
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in the mode of the attainment, of those blessings we pursue, tho' I venture to say our object is the same,—the national prosperity.

There is a certain fire in true Patriotism, which sometimes burns too strong, and dazzles our sight, and tho' we love the glow, it hurts our perception; this appears to be the case at present. I hope to be able to prove it under the sanction of your steady, yet temperate zeal.

Those who study the policy of the English and Irish nations, may be considered as Citizens of the Empire, and will not confine themselves to the local interest of either, but the good of the whole.

Every one knows, that the principles of  
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the present Administration are thus expanded, not confined like the former, to the shallow and narrow policy of raising Great Britain at the expence of every other branch of the Empire ; a policy so mistaken, that it has nearly ruined the whole.

America was lost upon this principle, and Ireland was nearly in the same situation, for I venture to assert, we are more indebted to Fear than Favour, for its present existence, as a part of the Empire.

We have gotten a great deal, thanks to the glorious spirit of the nation, and the temperate zeal of our Volunteer Army : we still want and shall obtain the rest of those blessings, if we pursue the same wise conduct ; a little time, a little spirit,



spirit, and a little temper, will compleat the work.

At present, we place not sufficient confidence in the new Administration, yet, if any reasonable man will examine their situation, more could not be done yet for Ireland.

Self-interest is so predominant in mankind, that it cannot be done away at once, even where it is absolutely necessary : had the Duke of Rutland set out in his Administration, a flaming Patriot, the majority of a Parliament, formed on the principles of the late Administration, would undoubtedly have marred all his measures, the Supplies would be withheld, and every thing here would have pictured the same confusion, as in Great Britain, during the struggle,



gle of contending parties, which on the part of the former Administration, could only be done away by the Dernier Resort, (a sad alternative) a dissolution of Parliament; which, however, we are not sure, but may hope, will establish the present Administration: an Administration (we may be assured) founded on constitutional principles. If we doubt this, if we place no confidence in the principles that actuated these men, their fathers and grandfathers then indeed, it is vain to argue further.

But, Sir, I will not hastily condemn good men, because I cannot see the motive for those actions, which do not immediately correspond with my ideas: for, keeping it in view that they are good men, I will think as I ought, and suppose that matters  
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are not ripe enough for our purpose,—our preservation.

Let us suppose, after what has been already said, with respect to the present Parliament, that the Duke of Rutland had given way to them, in the objects which now four most Citizens.

For instance, the attack on the Liberty of the Press, the invasion of our Charters, the rejection of Protecting Duties, and the Reform: I place them according to the requisition and determination of the Aggregate Body, met yesterday at Guildhall, where the whole were discussed with a justice, spirit, and temper, which would have graced any Senate in the Universe, and I hope, the address to his Majesty, will prove the propriety of their exertions.

With

With respect to the Liberty of the Press, every honest Citizen must own its necessity, and when personal resentment is a little cooled, those Gentlemen so fond of shackling it, will be convinced of their error. Administration could not resist them at present; yet tempered the act, so that it is little more than a chip in pottage, and has neither good or harm in it; if however, it is done away by the Citizens application, so much the better.

As to the seizing and confining our Citizens, if Administration had not given way so far to the resentment of individuals, (however necessary to Government, in the present crisis) perhaps it would have done no injury to Administration.

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The invasion of our Charters, if I can suppose any thing, it is by no means an object of Administration; it is the object of the present leading parliamentary interest, who wish to strengthen their power at the expence of the dearest rights of Citizens, handed down to them from the first English Government in Ireland, and confirmed by Acts of Parliament, *to them and their heirs for ever*. See the words of the Charter.

I say, this invasion which tramples on the prerogative of the Crown, is so barefaced a piece of treachery against the prerogative, and against the right of the people, that I see no reason to agree to it, but that a corrupt majority would have it so, and Administration at this crisis, are  
not

not competent to the refusal; tho' as the people of England have nothing to do with our intern regulations, and are not interested in them, the rejection of this bill will give them no concern, and cannot therefore injure the General Election there, in favour of Mr. Pitt's administration.

But the Protecting Duties are matters of the most serious concerns, the state of our wretched manufacturers speak more for them, than Cicero or Demosthenes could say, were they revived, reanimated with all their powers: but had they been granted at this day, will any man say the manufacturers of Great Britain would have given a vote to the interest of the present Administration?—not a single vote, and our hopes of a virtuous, a liberal Administration



tion, and of the interest of the Empire, would be undone ; but it may be urged, that we must be undone to answer the interest of Mr. Pitt's administration, I deny it totally, we have the means in our own power, and they were wisely displayed, urged and agreed to by the Citizens yesterday ; the determination to wear the manufactures of our own country, supercedes the necessity of the present intervention of Administration, and will answer, if effectually entered into by both sexes, every wise purpose, and preclude for the present, every embarrassment to the Minister ; for if we are virtuous enough to make Irish manufactures fashionable for a season, the English manufacturers will solicit as they did before, to grant our demands, (a participation of  
their



their foreign trade) to regain the sweets of our trade with them: the crafty, and I may add foolish suggestion, that promoting the woollen manufacture of Ireland, is an idle bug-bear, suitable to the shallow politics of its creator, for Great Britain can no more do without Irish linen, than their women can go without smocks, for all Germany could not supply them equal to the Irish, and the bounty granted by Great Britain on the export of said linen, is amply repaid in the profit on Irish linen: the English merchant can not export it without the bounty, nor can he sort his cargo without linen.

The Reform is a matter of the utmost importance, and as I have already tres-

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passed too long, it must be reserved for future discussion.

Thus much I hope, will be admitted, that we ought not hastily to censure an Administration, which we have fought after; that we should allow them time to obtain their majority, that we must allow them time to breathe after they have gotten it, that we probably have the same ground to go over here, as in Great Britain, for I firmly deny, that the present majority of our House of Commons are amicable to the present Administration; and I venture to assert, that notwithstanding the principles of the present leaders, who, it is supposed, Administration cannot dispence with: there are men to be found

both

both in and out of Parliament, capable of supporting Government, directing its Finances, settling its Revenue, pleasing the People, obtaining Loans, and answering every fair occasion of Administration; the Gentlemen now so high in estimation, and withal, so capable of fourcing the subjects, may, if they do not alter their conduct, be readily replaced, and, perhaps much more to the satisfaction of Government, and the wishes of the People.

For instance, if we should want a Chancellor of the Exchequer, capable of raising the Supplies, either by Loans or Lotteries, or Exchequer Bills, we should not scruple to think of any man who has the confidence of the people; stands high in

their estimation: confidence is the great point, method is merely clerical, and Clerks have nothing to do with politics, but business; and a good man, is as likely to prove a friend to them as a bad one, and will as humanely requite their abilities and services. It is no more necessary for a principal in office to be acquainted with the minutiae of his office, than for an intelligent Linen-draper, to become a Journeyman Weaver.

If we should want a Chief, or other Commissioner of the Revenue, those whom it may be good policy to retain, will soon lead new ones into the common business of the Revenue, and as to new imposts, alterations, or abatement of Revenue, these

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are mere matters of judgment, and no Gentleman should be placed there without it ; nor will any sensible or liberal Commissioner, venture a new duty, without consulting our principal Merchants conversant in domestic and foreign trade ; who will chearfully tell him which state is our best or worst benefactor, where the load, if necessary, should lean light or heavy : his own understanding will prevent imposition or selfish views, and the same understanding will direct to charge luxuries or superfluities, and lightly lean on necessities of life, or those which are substituted for them.

The great Revenue employments are now objects of Government, but it will be the duty of Commissioners to recommend  
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men of worth, ability, and substance: as to those offices which require experience, to render the possessor alert, gradual advance as in the Army and Navy, is equally necessary for them, a ponderous Surveyor should never have leap'd out of a Chandler's shop, into a Surveyor's office, because his brother was blessed with uncommon abilities, and rose rapidly to the first offices in the state. Neither should a Taster of Wines become a sinecure Officer; but as there are many Sinecures in the Revenue, it is to be hoped, a reformation will take place there, and in many other departments, and among all defaulters.

The business of the Treasury is mostly conducted by Clerks, among whom, as  
well



well as in the Revenue, there are numbers of valuable characters, ready to accelerate all business for principles of worth and ability, and all great officers keep the clearest accounts, so those matters which appear like labyrinths at first, are soon understood by Gentlemen of discernment, and liberal education.

In the Law Department, the practice of the Courts joined to judgment and ability, soon equips a man of genius, and clears up the mysteries of that profession.

But of all mystical publick business, no doubt, the Revenue apparently takes the lead, the carelessness of the Commissioners  
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in regulating the duties on imports, is unpardonable: Since the year 1764, there has not been a new Book of Rates, and except a few articles lately regulated, it is impossible for a Merchant to make a regular entry without the help of a Revenue Clerk, and not more than two, actually know how to compute the duties; on account of the repeated alterations, additions, and the very few subtractions in the Revenue: had the Commissioners applied their time in this regulation, instead of forming coercive laws to oppress the fair dealer, and let the knave enjoy the sweets of illicit trade, the Merchant had been accelerated, the Revenue benefited, and much blood and treasure saved to the nation; Breweries and Distilleries would not  
be

be in ruins, the Farmer would be induced to till more ground, and we should not now be obliged to foreign markets for a scanty morsel of bread to feed our drooping manufacturers.

Indeed it were to be wished, that Gentlemen of less importance and more application, were placed at the Revenue Board, as in London; for however odd it may appear, a Merchant may get access to a Viceroy, but not to a Board of Commissioners.

On the most important or least frivolous occasions, their honors must be petitioned or memorialled; the Merchant must wait let the business be ever so pressing, and he must receive his answer from their Se-

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cretary,

cretary, or their Messenger, just as it happens: in London, one or more of the Commissioners comes into the long-room, (or room of business) freely converses with the Merchant, and immediately dispatches his business, but those Commissioners are not permitted to be Members of Parliament, and therefore have leisure, capacity and inclination, to accelerate the business of the Revenue.

If this were done, such of the Commissioners as are fit to be retained in office, might properly compose a Treasury Board, and, not to multiply Offices, Commissioners of Accompts, which is pretty much in the Sinecure Order, might be incorporated therein, as a Clerk in the Revenue, and  
thus

thus our rising trade would be effectually accelerated, without any additional Expence; for the Chancellor of the Exchequer in England, is first Lord of the Treasury; the salaries of the Commissioners of the Revenue might be reduced; those of Accounts remain as they are, the Revenue could very well bear it; because, casual Revenue and incidents are funds no body knows the value of but those Gentlemen, tho' from a general idea, it is reckoned very considerable.

You must blame the Printer for the length of this letter, whose conscience would not permit him to charge fixpence for two-thirds of it, and requested something more might be added, therefore, you  
have



have the Chancellor of the Exchequer, &c.  
into the bargain, and as the whole was  
written on the 23d of April, you will be  
so obliging, to make allowances for hurry  
and inaccuracies.

I am, Sir, with due respect,  
your very humble servant,

AGRIPPA.